



State Representative
Jessica E. Miranda



State Senator
Cecil Thomas

March 9, 2022

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

As the founding members of the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, and on behalf of the majority of Ohioans, we respectfully ask that you veto SB 215. The reasons are many and the issues compelling, but we will keep this brief.

We stand proudly with law enforcement, mayors, surgeons and doctors, and the overwhelming number of Ohioans who believe there needs to be more stringent oversight of who is permitted to carry a gun in Ohio, not less. Everyone agrees that we need to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. The enactment of SB 215 will provide an open door way for that offender to get a gun.

With no need to get a permit, there will be no oversight by anyone. Who will check the database to see if the person is qualified to own a gun? There will be no one to prevent someone who has, for example, been convicted of assault on a police officer or convicted of domestic violence assault from getting the weapon. That fact alone is alarming.

There will be no oversight on whether the person has the minimum amount of training. Requiring a basic amount of training is just common sense.


Ohio Attorney Dave Yost joined 23 other attorney generals before the U.S. Supreme Court in stating that state gun laws that require a background check and sufficient training decrease crime rates. SB 215 strips away those protections.

If we balance the quest for unlimited freedom from gun regulations with the obstacles faced by someone seeking a permit, obtaining a permit is not an undue burden on law abiding citizens. According to the Cleveland Plain Dealer on March 1, 2022, Ohio concealed carry permit renewals jumped by 20% over the previous year. This hardly suggests that obtaining a permit is an overwhelming obstacle or undue burden on gun owners.

Finally, relieving a person from informing law enforcement of their possession of a gun threatens the safety of law enforcement. They overwhelmingly are against this legislation. Using the balancing test again, does the quest for unlimited freedom from gun regulations override the safety concerns of law enforcement? We think not and we believe Ohioans are not willing to put law enforcement in harm's way.

We sincerely hope that you will give the serious concerns of the majority due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica E. Miranda". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jessica E. Miranda
Minority Whip
Ohio House District 28

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cecil Thomas
Senator
Ohio Senate District 9